

# IT'S A SLAUGHTER AS BLUES HIT SEVEN

By **STUART EARP,** Wycombe Wanderers 7, Corinthian Casuals 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers took their goal tally to 16 in three games when they produced a crushing display of attacking football which completely out-classed struggling Corinthian Casuals at Loakes Park on Sunday. The football tended to overshadow the fact that over 2,000 people turned up to watch this, the first ever Sunday League match at Loakes Park.

The crowd must have been delighted with what followed — controlled, skilful football that brought the home club their second 7-0 victory of the season in the Rothmans Isthmian League. In November, St. Albans went down by the same margin at Loakes Park.

The seven goal success now means Wanderers have scored 16 in their last three matches, 4-0 against Clapton, 5-0 against Hornchurch in the Amateur Cup and Saturday's triumph which gives them their seventh 4-0 from the sponsors.

Considering the dreadful weather conditions, the atmosphere of 2,200 at Loakes Park was rewarding. While the present crisis persists, Wycombe will be happy to play matches on Sunday, although in general, most club officials prefer Saturday soccer.

From the very first minute of the match on Sunday — when Chillingworth's pass back fell short and Evans' resulting shot was deflected for a corner — it was obvious Casuals would have their work cut out to keep the scoreline down. Man for man they just couldn't match the ability of Wycombe.

But give them credit for not resorting to illegal tactics. In fact, the game was surprisingly devoid of fouls and Casuals never gave up hope of snatching a surprise goal.

New goalkeeper Kevin Raine was playing his first match for Wycombe — or more like watching his first game for Wycombe. He had only a couple of weak shots to save throughout the 90 minutes and it must have been one of the quietest games of his career. Keith Mead also made his debut, coming on as substitute for the last half hour. He too, was given little opportunity to show his talents.

Man of the match though on Sunday was Mick Holfield. As well as scoring two superb goals, his all-round game, especially his running off the ball, was unrivalled. Good support — once again came from Terry Reardon, who put Wycombe ahead after only four minutes.

Seconds earlier he had seen one long range effort skim past

the upright and from their second corner, Pritchard cleverly flicked on Holfield's flag kick. The ball came out to Reardon on the edge of the area, who fired it straight back into the corner of the net through a crowded goalmouth.

Tony Horseman had a good chance to make it 2-0 in the eighth minute when he tried to side-foot, past Chris Lamb after Dylan Evans had beaten three men in a 30-yard dash down the flank. Horseman, however, got his name on the scoresheet in the 14th minute from the penalty

spot. "Bodger" himself was barged down by Paul Imison and admirable referee Dave Patten immediately awarded the spot kick. Although guessing the right way, Lamb couldn't get a touch to the penalty.

Horseman then saw one effort hit the base of a post as Wycombe continued their onslaught. As Raine became increasingly colder, touching the ball just twice in the opening 25 minutes. Wanderers showed no signs of letting up and after 26 minutes they scored again, in unusual circumstances.

The goal once more came from a Holfield corner. Mick's kick curling towards the near post, Pritchard jumped over the ball as it came across and although Imison and Lamb seemed to have it covered, the ball squeezed over the line at the near post, touching Imison on the way. Referee Patten was right on the spot to award the goal.

Lamb saved brilliantly from a Perrin header in the 32nd minute but in the closing stages of the half Wycombe became a little too eager and over-elaborate.

They were so unused to the amount of time and space they were given, they wanted to make quite sure of their attacking moves.

Casuals, on the rare occasions they did go forward, made far too many basic errors. I counted five would-be crosses that sailed harmlessly behind the goal while the standard of their passing was distinctly poor. Just before the break they had their best chance of the game to score but from their one and only corner Chillingworth headed wide when unmarked.

Dave Bullock, Holfield and Evans all went close at the start of the new half and during one goalmouth scramble three or four players had shots at goal beaten out by the visitors' defence. Mead replaced Bullock at centre back on the hour and one minute later Holfield put Wanderers 4-0 ahead with a brilliant individual goal.

A suicidal cross-field pass by Keith Harris was picked up by Holfield outside the penalty area. Mick raced into top gear, swerved past two defenders into the box, slipped the ball past another defender and forced the ball under the diving body of Lamb — a tremendous goal.

Then, after 74 minutes, he repeated the feat, almost exactly. This time, he was inside the area when, he received Evans' pass. Two defenders were left trailing in his wake as he cut inside, side stepped Lamb and coolly slotted the ball into an empty net.

By this time it was entirely one way traffic on the Casuals goal. The ball only rarely entered the home half and two goals in two minutes completed the slaughter.

The first came after two successive corners. Roger Grant's flag kick sailed to the near post where Larry Pritchard rose high to nod the ball home. Sixty seconds later it was 7-0.

Pritchard started the move with a superb pass which, not for the first time, caught the Casuals defence completely square. Grant collected, ran to the by-line and crossed into the middle. Lamb managed to get his fingertips to the ball but could only push it towards Evans who headed home at the far post. Evans netted again in the 84th minute but was ruled off side.

The match ended as it began — with Wycombe bombarding the Casuals net. Five corners in the last five minutes brought their tally to 19 in the match — a pretty fair reflection of the game.

**WYCOMBE:** K. Raine; R. Williams, P. Wood, D. Bullock (sub. K. Mead 60 mins.), R. Grant, T. Reardon, L. Pritchard, M. Holfield; A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin.

**CORINTHIAN CASUALS:** C. Lamb; A. Franklin, D. Reece, R. Payne, P. Imison; R. Chillingworth, G. Allcott, R. Southam, W. Haigh; K. Eshelby, K. Harris.

**Referee:** D. Patten (Vately).

**Half time:** 3-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Reardon (4), Horseman (14) pen, Imison (25) o.g., Holfield 2 (61, 74), Pritchard (81), Evans (82).

**Official paying attendance:** 1,840. **Approximate total attendance:** 2,200.



Steve Perrin (arms raised) celebrates while Paul Imison (right) grimaces after letting in Wycombe's third goal at Loakes Park against Corinthian Casuals.